



Planned Parenthood of Northern New England **NEWS SOURCE**

Fall 2021

Dear Friends,

We know this edition of *News Source* might find you feeling outraged, as we are, at the threats to reproductive freedom happening across our country right now.

Texas passed the most restrictive abortion ban in over 50 years, which also isolates those seeking abortion by targeting their entire support network and discouraging their loved ones from helping them for fear of being sued. Unfortunately, this is just the beginning. With the new conservative Supreme Court deciding to take up *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, we anticipate *Roe v. Wade* will be dismantled. We see a frightening future where as many as 26 states across the country could ban abortion.

People seeking abortion care in states with limited or no access face significant financial, travel, and logistical hurdles. This disproportionately impacts people with low incomes, people in rural areas, and marginalized communities who already face immense barriers to health care access.

Meanwhile, right here in New Hampshire, we've seen how just one election can turn the tide – where for the first time in over 200 years, NH passed a cruel abortion ban at 24 weeks. This ban has no exception for rape, incest, or fatal fetal diagnosis, and requires medically unnecessary and costly testing for all abortion care. And then just a few

weeks ago, the NH Executive Council defunded PPNNE – stripping funds that helped subsidize life-changing, life-saving care for low-income Granite Staters.

We were certainly relieved to get the recent news that the Biden-Harris administration ended the Title X gag rule, which had forced PPNNE to withdraw from the Title X program. Title X funding may resume as soon as March or April 2022, though an exact date is not yet known.

While we celebrate this news, we know it doesn't mark the end of attacks aimed at sexual and reproductive health care in the U.S. and here in northern New England.

We are committed to doing all we can to mitigate the harm. We are all responsible for making sure patients seeking abortion care have access, regardless of zip code or economic means. We are in this together, all the way.

As you'll see in the following pages, our resolve has never been stronger. We know we have an important role to play in helping provide access to care. This will be a state-by-state effort and we need to be as strong as possible here in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont – and **together with you, we can be.**

With gratitude,

The Interim Leadership Team



Nicole Clegg
Senior VP of
Public Affairs



Kai Williams
Senior VP of
Health Care Delivery



Yvonne Lockerby
VP of Centralized
Operations

The Current State of **Reproductive Freedom**

Texas On September 1st, a new Texas law went into effect that bans all abortions at 6 weeks of pregnancy – before most people even know they're pregnant. Known as S.B. 8, this law also allows people across the country to sue anyone who helps someone get an abortion after six weeks in Texas, and collect a \$10,000 minimum reward for each successful lawsuit. On October 6th, the U.S. Dept of Justice was granted a preliminary injunction which restored the right to abortion for millions of Texans, but an immediate appeal stayed the injunction, meaning S.B. 8 is back in effect as we go to print. **We know this fight is far from over, and that this harmful legislation won't stop here;** it's part of a national agenda to end access to abortion in this country.

U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) When SCOTUS had the chance to step in and block S.B. 8, they chose not to take action. Additionally, they recently announced they will take up a case regarding Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* in December. The case could render *Roe v. Wade* meaningless and would leave abortion access up to each state. Current projections show as many as **26 states could ban abortion.**

New Hampshire Earlier this year, New Hampshire passed a **24-week abortion ban**, which will take effect in January of 2022. The law has no exceptions for rape, incest, or a fatal fetal diagnosis, and includes mandated

medically unnecessary ultrasounds. And just a few weeks ago, **the NH Executive Council voted 4 - 1 to deny PPNNE's family planning contract.** Between earlier drastic state budget cuts and the Executive Council's defund vote, PPNNE is facing a nearly \$1 million loss in funding this fiscal year.

What We're Doing We are committed to ensuring every patient seeking abortion care can access it, regardless of their zip code or economic means. What this looks like:

- Ensuring that Advanced Practice Clinicians, not just MDs, in our states can provide abortions.
- Expanding the days and times abortion care is available.
- Preparing to serve patients from Texas and other states where access is eroded.

Being Pro-active We're in the final year of working to pass the Reproductive Liberty Amendment (RLA) to the Vermont State Constitution. If *Roe v. Wade* is dismantled, the RLA would protect every Vermonter's right to make their own reproductive decisions, including whether and when to become a parent, use temporary or permanent birth control, or seek abortion care. **Vermont would be the first state in the nation to enshrine these rights in their constitution.** The next step in the process is a vote by the VT House in the 2022 Legislative session. If passed, the RLA will be a 2022 General Election ballot measure, decided by Vermont voters.

RALLY FOR ABORTION JUSTICE

A look across our region.

On October 2nd, abortion rights activists and over 90 organizations across the U.S., including PPNNE, came together to Rally for Abortion Justice in response to the Texas abortion ban and to send the message, loud and clear:

BANS OFF OUR BODIES.



VIRTUAL Youth Sex Education SUMMIT

Two years ago, PPNNE held its first annual Youth Sex Education Summit in Burlington, VT. 66 youth participated in a day of leadership training to advocate for sex education.

Last year, due to the pandemic, the Summit was virtual, but continued this important connection with VT youth.

This year, we're thrilled to announce that we'll be holding our 3rd Annual Youth Sex Education Summit on **Wednesday, December 1, 2021**. It will again be virtual, but this year we're expanding our reach. Teens from across our region in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont will have opportunities to connect with one another and promote sexual health education, leadership, and community resources.

If you know of youth who would like to participate, stay tuned for the latest details at www.ppnne.org/events, or if you're a youth-serving professional who would like to attend with a group of youth, please reach out to education@ppnne.org.

Serving all who come to us ...

from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and even Texas.

It didn't take long to see the effects of the Texas 6 week ban on abortion, even here at PPNNE. The day after the ban went into effect, our call center fielded a call from a patient in Texas, looking for abortion care. They came to us about a week later:

"She found out she was pregnant on September 1st, the day the ban started in Texas, and she and her partner told me that at first, **they didn't know what to do or who to call**.

After her procedure, her partner told me that they had initially scheduled in NYC, then he called our affiliate and spoke with someone in the call center. They were both incredibly grateful for the care they received." **Here's what they had to say about their experience:**



"When I talked to your organization, you told us, just show up, we'll find funding if you need it, we'll make sure you're taken care of... and I could tell that they meant it, that we really would be taken care of."



ANNOUNCING The 2-1 Match has been **EXTENDED!**

MAKE YOUR GIFT BY NOV. 15
& **TRIPLE YOUR IMPACT.**

Because of you, we are able to provide quality, non-judgmental sexual and reproductive health care here in northern New England to everyone who walks through our doors, regardless of insurance status, race, gender, religion, immigration status, sexual orientation, or ability to pay. With your help, we will serve them all.

But the attacks on reproductive health care have not stopped.

Abortion bans are being enacted across the country and even here in northern New England. The expectation is that the Supreme Court will dismantle *Roe v. Wade* and large swaths of the country will be without access to abortion care.

And just a few weeks ago, the New Hampshire Executive Council voted to deny PPNNE's family planning contract. This, along with the loss of Title X funds in NH, is resulting in a nearly \$1 million loss in funding for PPNNE.

These anti-reproductive health politicians are not focused on your health and well-being. They're focused on controlling decisions that should be your own to make.

In fierce defiance of these attacks on reproductive care, and to inspire YOU, Patricia Passmore Alley, Patience & Tom Chamberlin, the Couch Family Foundation, Rev. Anne Fowler & Sam Allen, Karen Harris & Rob Gips, Jennifer Goodspeed, Roy Langenberg, Diana & Adam Lee, Margot & Roger Milliken, Bonnie Porta & Bobby Monks, Randall Rives Perkins, Jackie Potter & Bill Black, Lisa Steele, Jim & Mary Twitchell, and other generous supporters created, and have now **expanded our Fall Challenge to \$350,000!** That means your gift today will be matched 2 to 1, up to a total of \$350,000 and will go even further in supporting this vital work.

Please make your gift by November 15th to take advantage of this incredible opportunity to have your gift **MATCHED** and triple your impact!



Serving Maine, New Hampshire, & Vermont

784 Hercules Drive, Suite 110, Colchester, VT 05446
supportus@ppnne.org | 1-800-287-8188 ext 9704
www.ppnne.org



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with match, three rapid HIV tests!

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with counseling for one
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testing for two patients.

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Three well-person visits
with Pap test, breast exam,
and STD testing **with match, 9 visits!**

Send your gift in the enclosed envelope, or make it online at ppnne.org/annualfund.